

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/612,445

Examiner

Annan Q Shang

Applicant(s)

DODDS ET AL.

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2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 09-29-04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13 and 22-29 and renumbered as 1-21 respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 July 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-21 allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: with respect to claims 1 and 22 of the instant invention is directed to apparatus for distributing ADSL signals to customer premises from a central office (CO). The relevant prior art of record such as **Eames (6,208,637)**, teaches method and apparatus for providing analog telephony services over a digital subscriber loop access system, with Universal Service Access Multiplexor (USAM) located in the central office and a twisted pair (TWP) communication link connecting customer premises devices to the CO and further teaches connecting customer premises devices to a remote USAM by TWP and by a bi-directional optical fiber link from the remote USAM to the CO. **Abdollahi et al (6,278,778)** teach system and method of limiting power consumption in a telecommunications equipment coupled between a plurality of far end subscriber lines and a plurality of near end subscriber lines, where an Access Multiplexing Terminal (AMT) or USAM is located remotely from a central office and copper twisted pairs carries data, voice, video and other forms of traffic. **Miller (6,738,474)** discloses system for providing POTS splitters externally with respect to digital subscriber loop access multiplexers and remote terminal and central office equipment racks. However, neither **Eames, Abdollahi** nor **Miller** and any of the cited references teach or suggest, alone or in combination a feature of splitting of the POTS signal from the data signal at the remote unit (USAM or AMT) and transporting the POTS signal in its analog form on a

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twisted cable pair to the central office separate from the ADSL signals also in analog form over a bi-directional link, recited as, "a bi-directional link separate from the trunk cable for the broadband transmission of ADSL signals in a modulated analog form in pre-selected frequency bands between the central office and the field cabinet, the ADSL terminals at the central office including ADSL modems arranged to communicate the ADSL signals in their modulated analog form over the bi-directional link and a splitter and interface module at the field cabinet, remote from the central office having a plurality of signal splitting coupler units each associated with respective one of the individual telephone lines and each arranged to separate the ADSL signals and the voice frequency POTS signals from the respective telephone line," in combination with other features with respect to independent claims 1 and 22 above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Eames (6,282,189) discloses unified access platform for simultaneously delivering voice and cell-based services.

Norris et al (6,353,611) disclose call waiting feature for telephone line connected to the Internet.

Roberts et al (6,418,558) disclose hybrid fiber/coax video and telephony communication.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q Shang** whose telephone number is **703-305-2156**. The examiner can normally be reached on **700am-500pm**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **John W Miller** can be reached on **703-305-4795**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **703-872-9306**.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC)** at **866-217-9197 (toll-free)**.



Annan Q. Shang.



JOHN MILLER
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